

**Community Relations Plan
for the
Yerington Mine Site
Lyon County, Nevada**

October 10, 2002

PREPARED FOR:

Atlantic Richfield Company
307 EAST PARK STREET, SUITE 400
ANACONDA, MONTANA 59711

PREPARED BY:

**B R O W N A N D
C A L D W E L L**
Carson City, Nevada

**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS LETTER
ON THE
DRAFT FINAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
OCTOBER 10, 2002**

Atlantic Richfield Company

307 East Park Street
Suite 400
Anaconda, Montana 59711
Phone: (406) 563-5211
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October 10, 2002

Mr. Arthur G. Gravenstein, P.E.
Staff Engineer
Bureau of Corrective Actions -- Remediation Branch
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
333 W. Nye Lane
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Subject: Submittal of the final Community Relations Plan for the Yerington Mine Site and Response to Comments on the Draft Final Community Relations Plan dated August 26, 2002

Atlantic Richfield Company has prepared the final Community Relations Plan (CRP) for the Yerington Mine Site dated October 10, 2002. The attached CRP reflects the final set of comments provided by the regulatory agencies on September 26, 2002 for the subject document. These comments and Atlantic Richfield's responses are provided below.

Specific Comments

1) Page 1, Introduction; Discuss what the CRP is before going into details regarding the Technical Workgroup.

The revised text reflects this comment.

2) Page 1, Summary and Description; define or delete the following terms: beneficiation operations, precipitation plant, heap leach pads and beneficiation circuits. In the second paragraph, change "approximate" to "approximately 3,000 acres." In this same sentence, delete the commas after solutions and activities.

The revised text reflects this comment.

3) Page 1, Summary and Description; Sentence starting, "The YTWG has developed a Closure Scope of Work to achieve..." change the tenses as follows so that they match the remainder of the sentence: contain and manage existing and potential future impacts..., assess and, if required, contain fugitive dust.

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The revised text is consistent with respect to past, present and future tense.

4) Page 2, Contact Information; add Vicki Rosen's title—Community Relations Specialist.

The revised text contains Vicki Rosen's proper title—Community Relations Specialist

5) Page 3, Community Relations Activities.; Delete the word involvement.

The revised text does not include the word 'involvement'.

6) Page 4, Public Meetings; Delete the "to" before "answer" and "respond" in the first sentence of this section.

The revised text incorporates this edit.

7) Page 5; add EPA and BLM as locations for folks to review files.

The revised text will include EPA and BLM as locations for file reviews.

If you have any questions regarding the revised document or the responses to comments, please contact me at 1-406-563-5211 ext. 430.

Sincerely,

Dave McCarthy
Project Manager

cc: Bonnie Arthur, SFD-8-1, USEPA Region 9
Robin Bullock, Atlantic Richfield Company
Tad Williams, Walker River Paiute Tribe
Elwood Emm, Yerington Paiute Tribe
John Krause, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Stan Wiemeyer, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Services
Vicki Roberts/Johanna Emm, Yerington Paiute Tribe

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Paul Thomsen, Office of Senator Harry Reid
Phyllis Hunewill, Lyon County Board of County Commissioners
Joe Sawyer, SRK Consulting
Dietrick McGinnis, McGinnis and Associates, LLC
Kris Doebbler, Bureau of Land Management

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN FOR THE
YERINGTON MINE SITE, LYON COUNTY, NEVADA
OCTOBER 10, 2002**

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN for the YERINGTON MINE SITE, LYON COUNTY, NEVADA

October 10, 2002

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Community Relations Plan (CRP) for the Yerington Mine Site has been prepared pursuant to the Closure Scope of Work to provide for successful information exchange between the public, stakeholders and members of the Yerington Technical Work Group (YTWG). The YTWG and the Yerington Stakeholders Group consists of the Atlantic Richfield Company, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Yerington Paiute Indian Tribe, the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe, Lyon County, the City of Yerington, and the office of U.S. Senator Harry Reid. Additional members of the local communities around the Yerington Mine site, and the public-at-large may also participate in the Yerington Stakeholders Group. The YTWG has prepared this CRP in support of achieving closure of the Yerington Mine Site per applicable State and Federal regulations. This CRP describes the purpose, objectives and activities proposed to keep the public informed of the various project components and to communicate the progress at the site. This plan is consistent with EPA guidelines on public participation.

1.1 Summary and Description

The Yerington Mine site is located approximately one mile west of the town of Yerington in Lyon County, Nevada. Copper mining and ore processing operations were conducted between 1953 and 1978 for oxide and sulfide ores. Waste rock was deposited south and north of the open pit. Oxide and sulfide tailings were deposited north of the process areas. Evaporation ponds and solution collection ditches were also constructed at the site to manage process solutions. In 1989, Arimetco International acquired the site, and continued to mine and process copper ores. Arimetco has declared bankruptcy and abandoned the site in 2000.

The approximately 3,000-acre mine site is now inactive with the exception of fluid management of heap solutions and general care and maintenance activities being conducted by the NDEP. Atlantic Richfield is currently operating a groundwater pumpback and evaporation system. The YTWG has developed a Closure Scope of Work to achieve the following objectives: contain and manage existing and potential future impacts to groundwater; assess and, if required, contain fugitive dust; demonstrate the physical and chemical stability of all surface mine materials; demonstrate that mine closure units and potentially affected off-site areas following closure and reclamation activities will not adversely affect human health or the environment; and establish a compatible post-closure land use and related monitoring and maintenance plan.

1.2 Purpose of this Plan

This CRP will serve as the framework to ensure a successful information exchange with the public during site investigation and mine closure activities. It describes planned public involvement activities for the site, and it assigns responsibilities for implementing the communications strategy. The CRP identifies community relations tools (e.g., web site, newsletter, public meetings, interviews) that will encourage meaningful two-way dialogue between the YTWG, community stakeholders and the public-at-large.

Community Relations Plan for the Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada

1.3 Agencies with Oversight Responsibilities

The YTWG currently reviews all site investigation and mine closure activities at the mine site. An existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated March 28, 2002, between the NDEP, BLM and EPA describes the review and approval procedures by these regulatory agencies for site investigation and mine closure activities at the mine site.

1.4 Contact Information

The points-of-contact responsible for the public participation process during the site investigation and mine closure activities at the site is:

Primary point-of-contact

Art Gravenstein, Staff Engineer
Bureau of Corrective Actions
NDEP
333 West Nye Lane
Carson City, NV 89706
Phone: 775-687-9376
Fax: 775-687-6396
E-mail: agravenstein@ndep.state.nv.us

Secondary points-of-contact

Vicki Rosen, Community Relations Specialist
EPA
Phone: 415-972-3244

Chuck Pope, Assistant Field Manager (Non-renewable
Resources)
BLM
Phone: 775-885-6000

1.5 Community Input into Plan

The CRP is based on input from the YTWG, the Yerington Stakeholder Group, community leaders, elected officials, and local landowners. Additionally, public meetings have previously been held to discuss site conditions and activities, and to receive input from the community. This plan will be updated, as needed, to reflect evolving community relations needs.

1.6 Organization of the Community Relations Plan

This plan consists of four sections.

- Section 1.0, Introduction - Provides an introduction and summary of the CRP.
- Section 2.0, Objectives - Describes the specific objectives of the CRP.
- Section 3.0, Public Involvement Activities - Describes the activities designed to promote public involvement throughout the site investigation and mine closure periods.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

This section lists the following specific objectives of the CRP:

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- Maintain open communication between the YTWG, Yerington Stakeholders Group, the communities located near the mine site, and other interested individuals and groups.
- Establish a CRP with the flexibility to continually identify community concerns and to respond appropriately. As needed, the plan will be updated to ensure effective communication with the community.
- Encourage meaningful community involvement and two-way dialogue by providing regulatory agencies, community leaders, elected officials, local landowners, and tribal members with accurate, timely information about site investigation and mine closure activities, as well as other important technical and administrative matters.
- Inform the public of the conditions at the site and ongoing activities. This will be accomplished by distributing newsletters and fact sheets, conducting public meetings, and establishing information repositories.
- Encourage dialogue with, and input from, the public by promoting easily accessible points-of-contact for questions and comments.
- Monitor community concerns to ensure that communications meet the needs of the public.

3.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

This section describes community relations activities that are intended to meet the objectives described in Section 2.0. Activities include ongoing communication with community leaders, elected officials, government agencies, Tribes, and local landowners.

3.1 Newsletters

A periodic newsletter will be prepared and distributed to interested parties via insertion into the Mason Valley News. The newsletter is anticipated to be prepared on a semi-annual basis, typically before and after the field season. This proposed schedule may be modified as needed. The newsletter will contain the following types of information:

- Descriptions of progress at the site;
- Descriptions of completed and upcoming technical activities;
- The status of any ongoing agency interactions;
- A section that addresses issues raised by the community; and,
- The schedule for upcoming YTWG and Stakeholder meetings.

Approximately 14 days are designated as the review period for regulatory agencies, and members of the Yerington Stakeholders Group and YTWG, to provide comments to the proposed contents of each newsletter. The audience for this publication will be the general public, so technical terminology will be explained in readily understandable terms. These newsletters will be distributed primarily through a mailing list described further in Section 3.4, but will also be available at various locations throughout the community as well as at the public meetings.

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3.2 WebSite

NDEP has established a web site at <http://ndep.state.nv.us/yerington/minesite.htm> to provide current information about the technical work group, site closure and related activities. The web page currently contains meeting agendas and minutes, closure-related work products and regulatory comments, other formal correspondence, a 2001 aerial photograph and a brief history of the mine site. As more information becomes available, additional topics will be presented.

3.3 Fact Sheets

To answer specific questions and to support the sharing of information, fact sheets will be prepared to inform and update the public about site investigation and mine closure remediation activities. These brief, one-page publications will explain technical information to the general public in easy-to-read terminology to facilitate understanding by non-technical readers. These fact sheets will be available at the public meetings.

3.4 Public Meetings

The NDEP will host public meetings to make available current information about site activities, answer questions, and respond to specific community concerns, issues, or events. Public meetings will be held on an annual basis, but also may be required when activities necessitate further public involvement. Public meetings will be announced in the newsletters and through published notices in local newspapers. Possible locations identified for public meetings include the Lyon County building in Yerington, and at the Yerington Paiute Indian Tribe gymnasium.

The designated point-of-contact will be responsible for obtaining answers to questions and following through on commitments made to the community during the meetings. At the meetings, fact sheets and copies of newsletters will be available for distribution. A sign-up list will be included to identify attendees (and particularly attendees who want to be added to the mailing list). The proposed meeting location will be in the City of Yerington. The first meeting is planned sometime between November 2002 and March 2003.

3.5 Mailing List

A mailing list of interested local residents, members of the Tribe and tribal representatives, state and federal regulatory agencies, government officials, and news media will be compiled. The list will be updated, as needed, to ensure that interested parties are receiving the newsletter and notices of public meetings (as announced in the newsletter).

3.6 Interviews

If deemed necessary, interviews may be conducted with citizens and community leaders to gain insight into the public's perception of site conditions and site closure activities. Interviews may be held in conjunction with stakeholders' or public meetings, or may be arranged on an individual basis.

3.7 Information Repositories

Information repositories have been established to provide public access to the technical reports and other information about the site investigation and remediation. Most or all site information will be available at the

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Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada**

NDEP web site <http://ndep.state.nv.us/yerington/minesite.htm>. Hard copies of all documents will be available at the following locations:

Carson City, NV

NDEP
333 West Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, NV 89706
Phone: 775-687-9376
Fax: 775-687-6396

Yerington, NV

Lyon County Library
20 Nevin Way
Yerington, NV 89447
Phone: 775-463-6645
Fax: 775-463-6646

File reviews can also be conducted at the EPA and BLM offices by contacting the appropriate secondary point-of-contact.